



***Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association***

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Re: HB 5548

Members of the Connecticut Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association, in regards to House Bill 5548, An Act Repealing Restrictions on the Transport of Mobile and Modular Homes. We represent 12 factories located in Pennsylvania that deliver their product – manufactured and modular homes – into and through Connecticut. They have been greatly impacted by Connecticut's restrictive movement regulations.

Connecticut's transportation requirements for the movement of manufactured and modular homes add thousands of dollars to the cost of an average-sized home. Costs that are being passed on to Connecticut families. Manufactured homes offer a viable housing alternative for families with limited financial resources, adding these additional costs can put the hope of homeownership at risk. Additionally, Connecticut's movement requirements are not in sync with neighboring states, adding even more costs to homes being delivered to and through the state.

Since 2004, our association along with other industry trade groups and the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Freight Management and Operations have attempted to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, as well as, DOT offices in surrounding states to harmonize the movement of manufactured and modular homes. Unfortunately, those efforts have not materialized into changes that would treat the movement of manufactured and modular homes the same as similarly sized loads (boats, swimming pools, etc.).

We are committed to working with Connecticut in making sure our factories have an opportunity to deliver their product safely, efficiently and cost effectively to families in Connecticut and beyond.

To do so, we ask the Committee to consider changes that will treat the movement of manufactured and modular homes the same as any other oversized product coming into or through the state.

This can be done first by removing the “pilot program,” that has been in place for over 10 years, and allow housing units between 14’1” and 16’ in width to move during daytime hours. This “pilot program” was implemented for housing units between 14’1” and 16’ in width to move into or through the state. The program restricts the number of homes to five, and the movement of these loads to nighttime – Sunday through Wednesday. From its inception, it has proved to be a hardship due to the fact that surrounding states do not allow for nighttime movement. Sunday is not even an option, since New York prohibits travel of these loads beyond Friday afternoon. Additionally, drivers are put at risk because there are no safe areas in New York for them to wait until they can cross into Connecticut. For years, the industry has asked for permission to use the Danbury rest area which is 1.3 miles across the border; however, our requests continue to be denied.

Additionally, we ask that mandatory police escorts be removed as we understand they are not required for similar loads, and during construction season that the DOT work with all highway users (including oversized loads) in identifying efficient and safe detours.

The industry stands ready to work with the committee and the DOT to craft language that will assure all oversized loads, including manufactured and modular movements, the ability to deliver product into and through Connecticut safely and cost efficiently.

On behalf of the industry in Pennsylvania, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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